

(1) That a vehicle to which it is substantially similar, as determined under part 593 of this chapter, incorporates a safety related defect or fails to conform with an applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standard. However, this obligation does not exist if the manufacturer of the vehicle or Registered Importer demonstrates to the Administrator that the defect or noncompliance is not present in such vehicle.

(2) That the vehicle incorporates a safety related defect or fails to conform with an applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standard, without reference to whether such may exist in a vehicle to which it is substantially similar, or whether such exists because it was created by the original manufacturer or by the Registered Importer.

(i) The requirement of 49 U.S.C. 30120 that remedy shall be provided without charge shall not apply if the noncompliance or safety related defect exists in a motor vehicle whose first sale after importation occurred more than 8 calendar years before notification respecting the failure to comply is furnished pursuant to part 577 of this chapter, except that if a safety related defect exists and is attributable to the original manufacturer and not the Registered Importer, the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 30120 shall not apply to a motor vehicle whose date of first purchase, if known, or if not known, whose date of manufacture as determined by the Administrator, is more than 8 years from the date on which notification is furnished pursuant to part 577 of this chapter.

(ii) Notification furnished pursuant to this paragraph and part 577 of this chapter shall include the statement that in the absence of the Registered Importer's facility being within 50 miles of the owner's mailing address for performance of repairs, such repairs may be performed at a specific facility designated by the Registered Importer within 50 miles, or, if no such facility is designated, anywhere, and shall also include an explanation how repair is to be accomplished without charge to the vehicle owner.

(h) In order to allow the Administrator to determine whether a Registered Importer is meeting its statutory responsibilities, admit representa-

tives of NHTSA during operating hours, upon demand, and upon presentation of credentials, to copy documents, or to inspect, monitor, or photograph any of the following:

(1) Any facility where any vehicle, for which a Registered Importer has the responsibility of providing a certificate of conformity to applicable safety standards, is being modified, tested, or stored;

(2) Any facility where any record or other document relating to modification, testing, or storage of vehicles being conformed, is filed;

(3) Any part or aspect of activities relating to the modification, testing, and/or storage of vehicles by the Registered Importer.

(4) Any motor vehicle for which it has provided a certification of conformity to the Administrator, and which remains in its custody or under its control.

(i) Maintain in effect a prepaid mandatory service insurance policy underwritten by an independent insurance company as a guarantor of its performance under paragraph (g) of this section.

(j) With respect to any motor vehicle it has imported and for which it has furnished a performance bond, to deliver such vehicle to the Secretary of the Treasury for export, or to abandon it to the United States, upon demand by the Administrator if such vehicle has not been brought into conformity with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

[54 FR 40090, Sept. 29, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 47088, Nov. 9, 1989; 58 FR 30997, May 28, 1993; 59 FR 31560, June 20, 1994; 59 FR 52098, Oct. 14, 1994]

§ 592.7 Revocation, suspension and reinstatement of registration.

(a) If the Administrator has not received any fee assessed and owing by the end of the 30th calendar day after such fee is due and payable, a registration is automatically suspended at the beginning of the 31st calendar day, and the Registered Importer is immediately notified in writing of the suspension at the address contained in its most recent annual statement or amendment thereof.

(b) If the Administrator has reason to believe that a Registered Importer has knowingly filed a false or misleading certification, and that its registration should be automatically suspended or revoked, (s)he notifies the Registered Importer in writing of the facts giving rise to such reason to believe, affording an opportunity to present data, views, and arguments, either in writing or in person, within 30 calendar days after receipt of the Administrator's letter, as to whether it has submitted false or misleading certification, and as to why the registration ought not to be revoked or suspended. The Administrator then makes a decision after the 30-day period on the basis of all information then available. If, after consideration of all the data available, the Administrator determines that the Registered Importer has knowingly filed a false or misleading certification, the registration is automatically suspended or revoked, and the Registered Importer notified in writing. Any suspension or revocation is effective as of the date of the Administrator's determination. The Administrator shall state the period of any suspension in the notice to the Registered Importer.

(c) The Administrator may suspend a registration if a Registered Importer fails to comply with any requirement set forth in 49 U.S.C. 30141(c), § 592.5(c), or § 592.6, or if (s)he denies an application filed under § 592.5(d). The Administrator may revoke a registration after any failure to comply with any such requirement, or if (s)he denies an application filed under § 592.5(d). If the Administrator has reason to believe that there has been such a failure to comply and that the Registered Importer's registration should be revoked or suspended, (s)he notifies the Registered Importer in writing, affording an opportunity to present data, views, and arguments, either in writing or in person, within 30 calendar days after receipt of the Administrator's letter, as to whether there has been a failure to comply and as to why the registration ought not to be revoked or suspended. The Administrator then makes a decision after the 30-day period on the basis of all information then available. If the Administrator determines that a registration should be revoked or sus-

pending, (s)he notifies the Registered Importer in writing. A revocation is effective immediately. A suspension is effective beginning with a date specified in the written notification.

(d) A Registered Importer whose registration has been revoked or suspended may request reconsideration of the revocation or suspension if the request is supported by factual matter which was not available to the Administrator at the time the registration was suspended or revoked.

(e) If its registration has been revoked, a Registered Importer is ineligible to apply for reregistration under this part. No refund is provided of any annual or other fees the Registered Importer has paid for the fiscal year in which its registration is revoked. If its registration has been suspended, it may file an application for reinstatement of its registration.

(f) The Administrator shall reinstate a suspended registration if the cause that led to the suspension no longer exists, as determined by the Administrator, either upon the Administrator's motion, or upon the submission of further information or fees by the Registered Importer.

[54 FR 40090, Sept. 29, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 52098, Oct. 14, 1994]

§ 592.8 Inspection; release of vehicle and bond.

(a) With respect to any motor vehicle for which it is obligated to provide a certificate of conformity to the Administrator as required by § 592.6(d), a Registered Importer shall not obtain licensing or registration of the motor vehicle for use on the public roads, or release custody of it for such licensing and registration, except in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(b) When conformance modifications to a motor vehicle have been completed, a Registered Importer shall submit the certification required by § 592.6(d) to the Administrator. In certifying a vehicle that the Administrator has determined to be substantially similar to one that has been certified by its original manufacturer for sale in the United States, the Registered Importer may rely on any certification by the original manufacturer